

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

I. General Remarks.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the remarks contained herein.

II. Disposition of the Claims.

At the time of this Office Action, claims 1-102 were pending. Claims 13-17, 33, 34, 46-52, 61-86 and 89-102 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-12, 18, 19, 24, 35-45, 53-56, 87 and 88 stand rejected. Claims 20-23, 25-32, and 57-59 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1, 21-23, 26, 35 and 58 are amended herein and claims 20, 25, 57, 87 and 88 are cancelled.

III. Remarks Regarding the Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claims 1-12, 18, 19, 35-45, 53, 54, 87 and 88 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reissued U.S. Patent No. Re 33,448 issued to Bauer (hereinafter "Bauer") in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,158,166 issued to Warren (hereinafter "Warren"). Independent claims 1 and 35 have been amended to include the limitations of allowable claims 20 and 57 respectively. Therefore, claims 1 and 35 are now in condition for allowance. Claims 2-12, 18, 19, 36-45, 53 and 54 depend from independent claims 1 and 35 and are allowable for at least the same reasons. Claims 87 and 88 have been cancelled. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request a withdrawal of these rejections.

Claims 24, 55 and 56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Bauer* and *Warren* as applied to claims 1 and 35, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,157,161 issued to Bauer (hereinafter "*Bauer II*"). As discussed above, independent claims 1

and 35 have been amended to include the limitations of allowable claims 20 and 57 respectively and are now in condition for allowance. Claims 24, 55 and 56 depend from independent claims 1 and 35 and are allowable for at least the same reasons. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request a withdrawal of these rejections.

IV. Claim Objections

Claims 20-23, 25-32 and 57-59 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 20 is rewritten as independent claim 1 and claim 57 is rewritten as independent claim 35. Claims 21-23 have been amended to depend from amended independent claim 1 which is in condition for allowance. Claim 25 has been cancelled and claim 26-32 are dependent on amended independent claim 1 which is now allowable. Similarly, claim 57 has been cancelled and claims 58 and 59 depend from amended independent claim 35 which is now allowable. Therefore, the Applicant's respectfully request a withdrawal of these objections.

V. No Waiver

All of Applicants' arguments and amendments are without prejudice or disclaimer. By not responding to additional statements made by the Examiner, Applicants do not acquiesce to the Examiner's additional statements, such as, for example, any statements relating to what would be obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art.

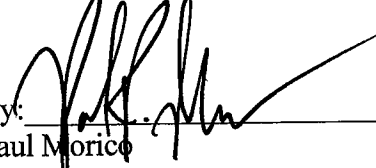
SUMMARY

In light of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections. Applicants further submit that the application is now in condition for allowance, and earnestly solicit timely notice of the same. Should the Examiner have any questions, comments or suggestions in furtherance of the prosecution of this

application, the Examiner is invited to contact the attorney of record by telephone, facsimile, or electronic mail.

Applicants believe that there are no additional fees due in association with the filing of this Response. However, should the Commissioner deem that any fees are due, including any fees for extensions of time, Applicants respectfully request that the Commissioner accept this as a Petition Therefore, and direct that any additional fees be charged to Baker Botts L.L.P. Deposit Account No. 02-0383, Order Number 063718.0398.

Respectfully submitted,

By:  _____
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